



## Family and Community Engagement

### Technology Enhanced Items

[Learn more about the College and Career Ready Assessment by clicking here.](#)

[Click here for ISTEP Samplers.](#)

### Community of Practice

[Click here to join a community that is focused on Family and Community Engagement!](#)

### Resources

[IDOE Family Friendly Schools Program](#)

[Family and Community Engagement Resources](#)

The focus of this outlined article for this month is Turnaround Principle 8 –Family and Community Engagement. Turnaround Principles are not only used as a strategic system to support schools that may be struggling but more importantly the eight principles are indicators for high performing schools.

The foundational aspect of Turnaround Principle 8 is that the school, family, and community are engaged in coordination at a level that will assist in removing all educational barriers for all students. It is important to leverage the power of families, community members, community organizations, and the school as active partners to support the student and remove all barriers to help accelerate the academic and personal growth of all students.

When discussing MEANINGFUL family engagement it is important to note:

- To actively engage families is to keep them informed about the academic progress of their student and how this is in comparison to expected learning goals or targets for that grade level. Parents need to know where their student is achieving in relation to the goal or expected outcome.
- There is power in parents being informed and they need to know that they are an active participant in the instructional decisions of their student. Parents in this process can also be informed how they can help their student in progressing towards the learning goals or student outcomes.
- When initiating this contact with parents it is important



## **Southern Indiana Education Center**

The Southern Indiana Education Center (SIEC) offers a variety of professional learning opportunities and events. Click here to view. Topics include Increasing Student Engagement, Questioning in the Math Classroom, Rethinking Your 90-Minute Block, Interactive Lecture/Shared Inquiry, plus many more.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



Join an online community of practice to network with others. It's a great way to share what you know and learn from others!

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to make this a positive impact that the education of the child is a team effort.

- Families should be provided opportunities to garner input from families on school decisions through PTOs, Parent Councils, School Leadership Councils, or Town halls. School leaders can use this valuable feedback to make decisions accordingly.

Community engagement is also a component of this principle.

- It is important for schools to cultivate and build relationships with community partners and organizations that can provide support in identified needs of families and students.
- Many times the community organizations are willing to establish and coordinate the service they provide with the school building. All students can achieve to meet high expectations when their emotional, behavioral, physical, and academic needs are met.
- Critical community partnerships will build a network of services that can be provided to families and students that schools cannot otherwise provide alone with the goal of removing or reducing barriers to the academic achievement and personal growth of students.

There are many resources available on the Outreach Website to support schools in this area. Schools that feel they have strong Family and Community Engagement programs in place are encouraged to explore the possibility of applying for the designation of being a Family Friendly School. The information, application, and materials can be found at this location.

If you are interested in reading the full original article that these notes were developed from you can access it here.

## Winter Cancellations and Instructional Time FAQ

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As winter weather approaches, an updated Instructional Time FAQ has been posted to the IDOE - Accreditation Community. This includes cancellation issues.

Additionally, there is information related to the current heavy absenteeism due to the widespread influenza outbreak. For your convenience, this file is also attached to this announcement.

If you have new administrators who may not be a member of this community, please share this information with them as well as a suggestion that they join.

[2014-2015 Instructional Time FAQ  
Updated 12/29/14.pdf](#)

## Family and Community Engagement in the IDOE

The IDOE Family and Community Engagement initiative is being rolled out in January 2015. The vision of the FACE initiative is to assist the Division of School Improvement with an intentional approach to family and community engagement. Our mission is to serve all Indiana schools, including Focus and Priority Schools, with improving their family and community engagement initiatives. In addition to identifying and designating applicable schools as “Family Friendly,” we will create and share a statewide framework for Family and Community Engagement.

If you have any questions or in need of additional support in the area of Family and Community Engagement, please contact:

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